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REPORT OF THE CHRONICLER.

PRINCIPAL LOCAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1912.

The Chronicler submitted the following report:

To the President and Members of the Columbia Historical Society:

1912.

- Jan. 1. Meeting of the Washington National Monument Society reported that but seven states lacked representation in the Washington Monument.
- “ 5. The funeral of Rear Admiral R. D. Evans, who died January 3, was held at All Souls Church.
- “ 13. At 8 A. M. the city experienced the coldest hour since February, 1899, the year of the memorable blizzard. Temperature 15 degrees below zero.
- Feb. 14. Dr. Harvey W. Wiley was the principal speaker at a meeting at the New Willard Hotel called for the purpose of organizing the District Council of the National Civic Federation.
- “ 23. A number of residents of Alexandria County, dissatisfied with conditions in the county, contemplate calling on President Taft to urge him to exert his influence to have Alexandria County replaced in the District of Columbia.
- Mar. 11. Census bureau bulletin shows that Washington has 333,069 inhabitants, and is the seventeenth city in population in the country.
- “ 23. Thirty-four caskets, containing the remains of the last of the “Maine’s” crew, were lowered in the graves of the Spanish War Section at Arlington. President Taft stood in the drizzling rain during the ceremonies. Commander Knapp spoke in memory of the dead and Father Chiswick, who was chaplain of the “Maine,” offered prayer.

- Mar. 27. Mrs. Taft planted the first Japanese cherry tree, a gift to this city, on the west side of the tidal basin in Potomac Park. 3,000 trees have been received.
- Apr. 3. The commissioners designate the week from April 15 to 20 as city cleaning week for the District of Columbia.
- “ 4. The contract has been awarded to furnish four bronze buffaloes to decorate the O street bridge, at a cost to the District of \$24,000. The bridge will cost \$275,000.
- “ 12. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross Society, died at her home in Glen Echo, Md., aged 90.
- “ 17. General Horace Porter delivered the oration at the unveiling of the monument of John Paul Jones in Potomac Park. The famous sea fighter's achievements were extolled in an address by President Taft.
- “ 20. Cardinal Gibbons was the recipient of a gift of \$25,000 for the Catholic University, of which he is Chancellor. The donor, a wealthy Hebrew, withholds his name.
- May 4. The statue of John Carroll, first archbishop of Baltimore, and the founder of Georgetown University, was unveiled. Chief Justice White made the formal presentation to the University as spokesman for the donor, the National Alumni Association. President Donlon reviewed the Archbishop's life as an educator.
- “ 5. Memorial services in honor of Major A. W. Butt, military aide to President Taft, who went down with the "Titanic" in the disaster off the North Atlantic coast, were held at the National Theatre. Mourning emblems were conspicuously absent; in their place were flags, flowers and Army insignia. Among the speakers were President Taft and Secretary Stimson.

- May 23. The population of the District, according to the census taken by the police, is more than 350,000.
- June 2. The Joaquin Miller Cabin, removed from Sixteenth and Belmont streets to Rock Creek Park, was turned over to the government.
- “ 8. After the elaborate ceremonies at the Union Station plaza during which President Taft and the Marquis Cusani Confaloneri delivered addresses, the Columbus Memorial Celebration was brought to a close by a mammoth banquet at Convention Hall.
- “ 25. The government acquired Meridean Hill Park. Congress appropriated \$490,000 for the purchase of the land and its conversion into a public park.
- July 4. This morning over every public building in the city was hoisted a flag with forty-eight stars. The increase is due to the admission of two new states, New Mexico and Arizona.
- “ 24. An interesting collection was installed in the Hall of History in the National Museum, consisting of articles donated and loaned by Mrs. Custer, widow of General Custer. One of the relics is a small table on which General Grant wrote the terms of surrender of General Lee.
- Aug. 6. The first fully equipped motor fire engine house in the District fire department went into commission at Petworth.
- “ 23. The District's contribution to the 20,000,000 militia of the United States is more than 78,000. This may seem a small number, yet it surpasses that of six states, according to the director of the census.
- Sept. 17. Condemnation proceedings were commenced to acquire nine and one-half squares of ground for the proposed extension of the capitol grounds to the Union Station plaza.
- “ 28. The National Museum received a notable collection of more than five hundred weapons and other

objects, presented by Mrs. Julian James, of this city.

Oct. 23. According to the census bureau, of the more than 350,000 residents of the District only 139,000 are natives. Of the states represented in the population, Virginia stands first with 52,000.

Nov. 12. The cornerstone of a monument, intended to crown the peace between the North and the South, was laid in the section set apart for the Confederate dead at Arlington. Ex-Secretary Herbert officiated and William J. Bryan was the orator of the day.

Dec. 13. The National Museum had added to its collection four antique chairs that were once the property of Alexander Hamilton.

“ 28. The John Dickson home (a memorial by Henry Dickson to his father), intended as a refuge for aged men was announced ready for occupancy.

“The record of the year is done, as hoary, old December
Adjures us by experience now to ponder and remember;
For in the morn, with springing feet and lips of dew, a fairy
Will haste to turn a bright, new sheet—the glad young January!”

Respectfully submitted,
MARTENA CARR.

NECROLOGY.

1912, May 9th.....CHARLES HARPER WALSH.
1912, May 11th.....JOHN J. HEMPHILL.
1912, September 4th.....W J MCGEE.
1912, October 3d.....JOHN TAYLOR ARMS.
1912, November 30th.....ALVIN MASON LOTHROP.